



March 8, 2011

Information on Building Inspections and Repairs Huron A, Huron B and Concord Ave Neighborhoods

Lisa Peterson
Commissioner

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The original sewer lines in Alewife Sewer Separation Project area were engineered many years ago as a combined system with sewage and stormwater collected in the same pipe. During heavy rainfall events, however, these combined sewers can become overloaded and may overflow directly into the Alewife Brook, and cause system surcharging, back-ups and flooding onto public roadways and private properties. The Alewife Sewer Separation Project will separate this combined system into separate and dedicated sanitary sewer and stormwater drain systems significantly reducing the incidents of system surcharging and flooding.

In order to adequately separate the combined sewer in the street and provide for a design that addresses appropriate levels of service it is important for the City to understand what is being discharged from private service laterals to the new sewer and drain line, including sump pumps, roof drainage, etc. Only stormwater or ground water can be discharged to the new stormwater drain. The elimination of stormwater and sump pump discharges from the new sewer system is necessary to ensure the system operates as intended. Information collected will be used to design the new sanitary and stormwater system so that flooding and back-ups in your neighborhood and polluted discharges to the Alewife Brook will be reduced to the maximum extent practicable.

As part of our building inspection program and construction effort in your neighborhood, any work that is identified as necessary for the sewer separation program will be fixed under the City's contract at no expense to you. We have completed thousands of inspections throughout the City. Our experience has shown that many of the changes that were found to be necessary were able to be corrected within the street/sidewalk area. If a change needs to be done on private property, then we will work with the property owner to make the repair under the city's contract - at no cost to the property owner.

It is important for property owners to understand, that if a problem is identified and the property owner doesn't allow the City to undertake the repair, then the property owner will be responsible for the repair. To date, we have not encountered a situation where a property owner has refused our assistance with correcting a problem.

We strongly encourage you to contact our representative at Kleinfelder/S E A Consultants, Inc, Christine Clancy, at 617-594-1316 or e-mail Christine.Clancy@seacon.com to schedule an inspection.

Don't hesitate to contact me or Catherine Daly Woodbury, Project Manager, at 617-349-4818 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Owen O'Riordan
City Engineer and Assistant Commissioner for Engineering

